

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AF-10
ACDA-07 /096 W
-----058223 121259Z /50

R 121030Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4410
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 6406

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, AF, PK
SUBJ: INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO
AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 5727 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE HAS COMPLETED A
SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN, DURING WHICH BOTH SIDES
AFFIRMED THAT THEIR TRADITION OF GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL
CONTINUE. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED HOPE FOR STABILITY IN PAKISTAN,
BUT STRESSED AVOIDANCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN THAT NEIGHBOR'S
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE AFGHANS CALLED FOR A CLOSING OF THE GAP
BETWEEN THE WORLD'S RICH AND POOR NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ATAL BHARI VAJPAYEE, INDIA'S MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
DEPARTED FROM KABUL ON SEPT 6 AFTER A SUCCESSFUL THREE-DAY VISIT
TO THE WESTERNMOST COUNTRY OF THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION. HE WAS
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SEEN OFF BY THE SAME GROUP OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND INDIAN OFFICIALS
WHO GREETED HIM ON SEPT 3, INCLUDING MINISTER-IN-CHARGE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAHEED ABDULLAH.

3. SHLINDRA KUMAR SINGH, LOCAL INDIAN AMBASSADOR, INFORMED THE
CHARGE THAT THE BASIC PURPOSE FOR VAJPAYEE'S VISIT WAS TO ASSURE
THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA), WHICH HAS THUS FAR ONLY

EXPERIENCED RELATIONS WITH INDIAN GOVERNMENTS CONTROLLED BY THE CONGRESS PARTY, THAT THE NEW JANATA REGIME INTENDS TO BE GUIDED BY THE SAME TRADITIONAL BILATERAL INTERESTS AND POLICIES -- AND THAT NO CHANGES IN THESE POLICIES ARE BEING PLANNED.

4. SINGH ASSERTED THAT INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN HAD "NO BILATERAL PROBLEMS, WHATSOEVER". HE CLAIMED THAT THE TWO SIDES "SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON EVERYTHING". WHEN ASKED WHETHER INDIA HAD DUAL-NATIONALITY PROBLEMS WITH AFGHANISTAN, SUCH AS THOSE WITH BURMA OR SRI LANKA, SINGH REPLIED, "NONE WHATSOEVER".

5. ASKED WHETHER REGIONAL PROBLEMS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED, SINGH REVEALED THAT THE PAKISTANI SITUATION HAD BEEN COVERED. OBSERVING AGAIN THAT THE AFGHANS AND THE INDIANS ARE "EYE-TO-EYE ON EVERYTHING, EVEN PAKISTAN", SINGH SAID THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WANT TO AVOID ANY INTERFERENCE WHATSOEVER IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PAKISTAN. BOTH SIDES WANT STABILITY IN PAKISTAN -- BUT REGARD THIS AS SOMETHING FOR THE PAKISTANIS THEMSELVES TO WORK OUT. (SINGH'S REPORT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY MOHAMMAD GUL HAHANGIRI, THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES EAST OF AFGHANISTAN.)

6. FOR THEIR PART, VAJPAYEE'S AFGHAN HOSTS UTILIZED THE VISIT TO PROMOTE SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE THEMES. AT A RECEPTION HE GAVE IN VAJPAYEE'S HONOR ON SEPT 3, FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLES SHARED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES IN NONALIGNED AFFAIRS
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SINCE THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE (ABDULLAH ONLY INVITED THE AMBASSADORS OF "NONALIGNED" COUNTRIES TO THIS RECEPTION -- PLUS THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS). ABDULLAH USED THE OCCASION TO PUBLICIZE THE CONFERENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WHICH KABUL WILL BE HOSTING NEXT YEAR. HE ALSO CALLED FOR "AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE WORLD, BASED ON JUSTICE AND THE REALITY OF OUR TIME -- AND ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD." NOTING THAT "THE GAP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS POSES A MAJOR THREAT TO WORLD PEACE," ABDULLAH OBSERVED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE FOURTH UNCTAD CONFERENCE AND THE SUBSEQUENT NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN PARIS "WERE NOT SATISFACTORY" -- BUT THAT THE "LIMITED AGREEMENTS" WHICH WERE WORKED OUT MAKE THE AFGHANS "HOPEFUL" FOR THE EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF THE GROUP OF 77'S EFFORTS.

7. VAJPAYEE WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT DAOUD ON SEPT 4, IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A PROTOCOL CALL.

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8. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED ON SEPT 6 (FULL TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY), REPEATED SEVERAL OF THE STATEMENTS ALREADY REPORTED IN THE KABUL PRESS -- AND INCLUDED A JOINT AFGHAN-INDIAN CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WHITE POLICIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE TWO SIDES ALSO CALLED, INTER ALIA, FOR "GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS" AND "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE." EXPANSION OF TRADE COOPERATION, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

9. COMMENT: AS AMBASSADOR SINGH NOTED, INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN HAVE CUSTOMARILY SHARED GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS; THEREFORE, VAJPAYEE'S TRIP WAS UTILIZED PRIMARILY TO CONFIRM THESE TIES AND PROMOTE NONALIGNED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC THEMES. THEIR REPORTEDLY SIMILAR ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN -- THE PRINCIPAL REGIONAL ISSUE IN WHICH NEW DELHI AND KABUL SHARE A GOEPOLITICAL INTEREST -- AS WELL AS THEIR
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GOVERNMENTS' STATED INTENTIONS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION THERE, ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EARLIER REPORTS FROM NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD AND PREVIOUS

INFORMATION HERE.

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